

Hello and good morning I am writing in support of Senate Bill 218.

I'm a victim of domestic violence 🤝💜 with my situation being where my ex-husband dumped a red gas can full of gasoline all over our home and threatened to burn the house down with me and my animals inside even flipping the electric breaker boxes back and forth trying to make it spark to again start a fire.. luckily it was not started and I was able to call the fire department in time. They were able to take him away, though only they took him away for 3 hours on a mental hold then released him that evening, he then came to my work at 4am where unknown to him I was in a safe hotel room, luckily my coworkers and security officer escorted him off the property. The next morning I did go and file for my protection order which I still have that has been in place since May of 2017. Every year I have applied and it has been signed though last year he did take the opportunity to challenge the order as he said it was an inconvenience for him to have to be around his home to be served his order... well I think it is inconvenient that I that I had my life threatened as well as my pets and that I have to look over my shoulder every single day not knowing if he's going to come and finish that he started, yes I know it has been years but with his protection order this has been the only document and real protection that I have I'm not a gun owner at this time so really this piece of paper is the only have I thing I have to protect myself. We as victims have to renew our orders every year, which means we have to rehash the entire situation on paper writing every detail down and trying to prove to the courts and our perpetrators how scared we are.. This fear of mine will never go away it will be with me as long as he's alive and I will keep renewing my year my order as long as I am alive as well. I am blessed we can hopefully have an extra year which means I will only have to fight for my order every two years. The stress and anxiety to do the renewal takes over my life and the hearing last year when he challenged the order was beyond terrifying and had my mom not been holding me up I would have collapsed... Please pass Senate Bill 218 because we as victims need this protection and we need somebody standing in our corner and Senate Bill 218 does exactly that. The only thing that I have a question about as well is how come our perpetrators are able to challenge our protection orders and also be able to ask us questions in court? Why do we have to prove it to them every year? Again this makes them have the power because they know again how scared we are and they can hear it from our own words.. Thank you very, very much for hopefully passing this bill. I'm sorry I'm not able to testify in person so you can hear it directly from a victim's voice but I did have to work today 🤝💜 I definitely support it highly and hope that one day in the future the order of protection can be permanent.

Thank you so much for your time and have a wonderful day.

Take care and stay safe 🤝

Melissa M. Garcia  
Lincoln City, Oregon  
Case # 17PO04881  
mgevan@yahoo.com